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The Mercury News

BayArea NewsGroup 111 Volume 167, issue 135 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2017 ★ 24/7 COVERAGE: MERCURYNEWS.COM » $1.50

PAYING MORE AT THE PUMP

New gas tax hits drivers today

PUMP BUMP

$5.4B
Amount that tax will raise annually over next decade.

1994
Last time the state raised the gas tax

63%
Share of those polled who oppose gas tax hike.

12-cent hike per gallon, OK'd by Legislature, will go toward road repairs; some bidding for repeal

By Erin Baldassari
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OAKLAND » Beginning Wednesday, drivers across California can expect to pay an extra 12 cents per gallon for gasoline at the pump, and an extra 20 cents per gallon for diesel.

The new gas tax, approved by the Legislature and signed by the governor in April, is expected to raise roughly $5.4 billion annually over the next decade. About half of the money will go to the state to improve highways, bridges and culverts. The other half will go to cities, counties and transit agencies for local street and road repairs, and improving public transit options.

But, there's also some money in the bill for congestion relief, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and transportation research, workforce training and planning efforts.

GAS » PAGE 7

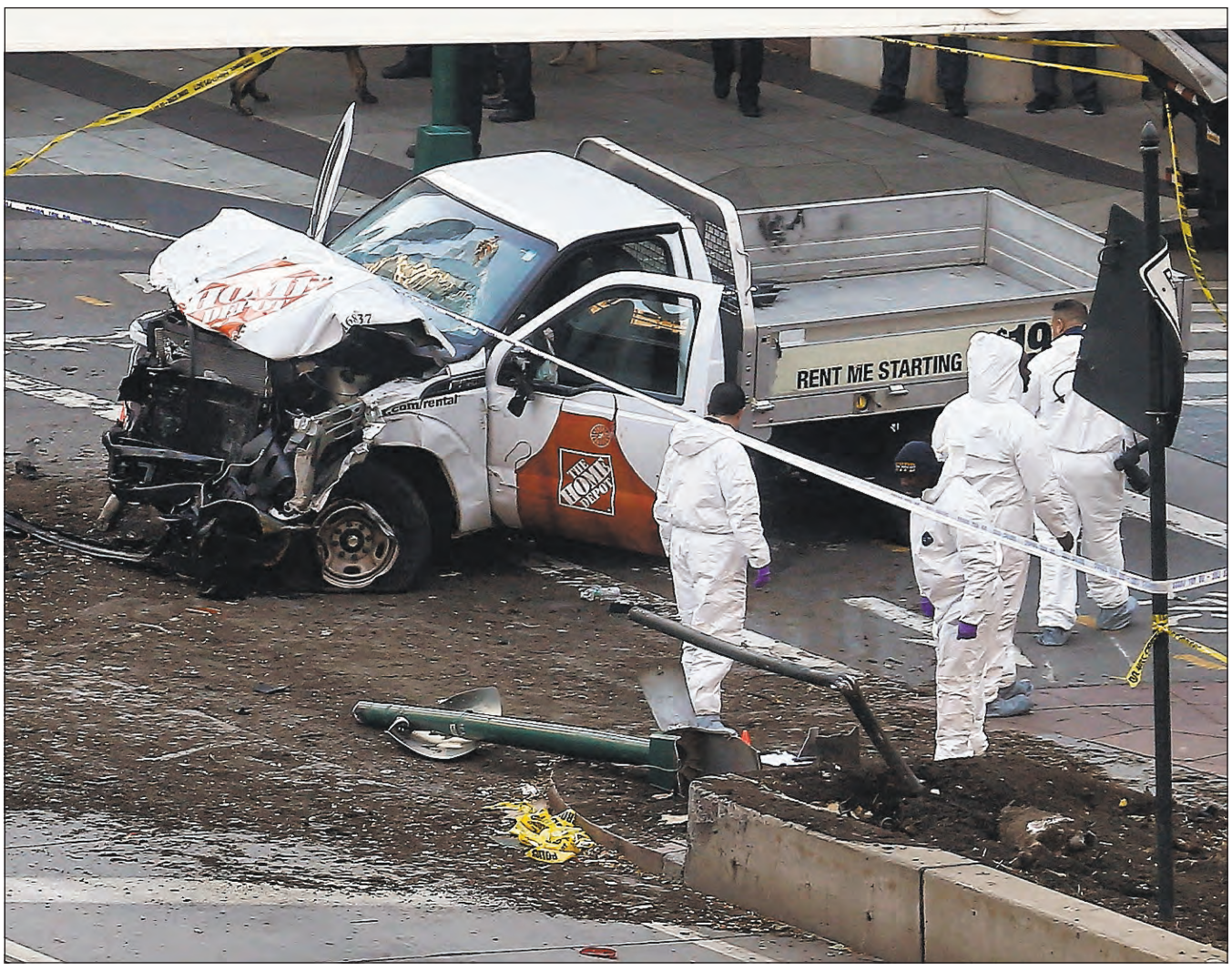
Tyler Wiggins fills his car with gas at the A&A gas station on Monday in Oakland. Drivers will see a 12-cent bump per gallon for gas and a 20-cent bump for diesel starting today.

ARIC CRABB — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

'COWARDLY ACT OF TERROR'

TRUCK 'CRUSHED BIKES AND BODIES'

Attack in Manhattan: Eight die as Uzbek immigrant runs down cyclists, shouts 'Allahu Akhbar' and is shot by police in first incident of its kind in US



BEBETO MATTHEW — ASSOCIATED PRESS

Authorities stand near a smashed Home Depot truck after a motorist drove onto a bike path near the World Trade Center site.

Sayfullo Saipov
Suspect said he is from Uzbekistan and came to the United States legally in 2010.

ONLINE EXTRA
See more coverage, including stories, photos and videos at www.mercurynews.com.

By Colleen Long and Jake Pearson
Associated Press

NEW YORK » A man in a rented pickup truck mowed down pedestrians and cyclists along a busy bike path near the World Trade Center memorial on Tuesday, killing at least eight and seriously injuring 11 in what the mayor called "a particularly cowardly act of terror."

The driver was shot in the abdomen by police after jumping out of the truck with what turned out to be a fake gun in each hand and shouting what witnesses said was "Allahu Akbar," Arabic for "God is great," authorities said. The man underwent surgery and was expected to survive.

Officials who were not authorized to discuss the investigation and spoke on the condition of anonymity identified the attacker as

NEW YORK » PAGE 6

CRAIG RUTTLE — ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bicycles and debris lie on a bike path after a suspected terrorist drove onto the path, killing at least eight people.

WINE COUNTRY INFERNO

At least 17 'electric safety incidents' on night of fires

PG&E: Downed trees, winds damaged lines, equipment

By Emily DeRuy and Tracy Seipel
Staff writers

State regulators on Tuesday revealed that PG&E reported at least 17 "electric safety incidents" across eight counties the night of October's destructive Wine Country fires, blaming downed trees and heavy winds for damaging power lines and other equipment that is the focus of an investigation into the deadliest wildfires in California history.

The reports offer PG&E's first detailed acknowledgement of widespread problems with its power lines and nearby trees on that fateful night. They come as the state's insurance commissioner on Tuesday reported insured losses from the October blazes have now topped $3 billion and warned the number is "sure to grow."

The staggering figure looms over PG&E, which could be on the hook for billions of dollars in damages if the utility is found

PG&E » PAGE 6

MORE INSIDE
All major Wine Country fires now 100 percent contained.
PAGE A6

AFTER YEARS OF STUDY

A volunteer herds kittens at the Santa Clara County Animal Shelter in San Martin.

NHAT V. MEYER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Public input will help county design new animal shelter

By Eric Kurhi
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SAN MARTIN » The Santa Clara County Animal Shelter — a modest affair in an expanded, repurposed farmhouse — was never built to meet current humane standards, and after years of talking about it, $26 million has been earmarked for a brand new, modern facility.

That means more, bigger digs for dogs and coops for cats, with care taken to make them "low-stress" environs, said Lisa Jenkins, the county's animal care manager.

Instead of a wall of clanking cages for the felines and a cell-block row of canines bark-

SHELTER » PAGE 6

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